PRAYER

Fajr	5.58
Zuhar	12.36
Asr	4.23
Maghreb	5.57
Isha	7.15

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

"ONE WHO OFTEN REFLECTS, DEVELOPS HIS FORESIGHT."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

78AH427

Music lovers enthralled by *Choral melodies*

By Peerzada Salman

KARACHI: It was an engaging bunch of a little less than two dozen Pakistani and Indian film songs — in which music composers have used choruses — performed at the Arts Council of Pakistan on Friday evening in a concert titled *Choral Melodies*.

The show kicked off with Kamran Sagu singing *Tu pyar ka sagar hai* originally sung by Manna Dey for the film *Seema*. But it was Kainat John's heartfelt rendition of *Ajeeb dastan hai yeh* that set the tone for the melodious evening in the real sense. She began the *asthai* (opening verse) of the famous Lata Mangeshkar song very well, dipped in tone a bit in the first *antara* (mid verse or stanza) but in the second *antara* picked the tune beautifully. As an amateur vocalist, she is a serious talent and should be provided with national platforms.

Ali Roman and Kainat's attempt at singing *Ik rasta hai zindagi* (a Kishore Kumar-Lata Mangeskhar popular track), left a bit to be desired on Ali's part. He sounded a little nervous and managed to find his feet in the latter half of the performance.

Another Lata Mangeshkar song *Sunn sahiba sunn* sung by Maria Masood was a decent effort. Although it sounds an uncomplicated composition, it is not easy piece to sing. The tune starts off with a chorus and then the singer sings the first line; that's exactly where vocal training comes to help.

Mazhar Iqbal crooned *Sama wo khwab sa sama* (a Robin Ghosh composition sung by the inimitable Akhlaq Ahmed). The gentle composition requires voice control because it doesn't hit the high register very much and stays somewhere in the mid register. Mazhar did okay. The house band was terrific, though.

Next up was *Meri hamjolian* performed by Amlek Pearl. The song was one of the major successful numbers of the legendary folk artist Reshma. It was composed by Sohail Rana. The young vocalist tried to do justice to the tune because it's a difficult one, especially its *antaras* require pitch variations.

Some of the other songs on the playlist included popular numbers such as *Dildar sadqey, Sara zamana haseeno ka deewana* and *Dekho yeh kon aa gaya.*

The concert was hosted by the organisers Shakil Jafri and Shazleen Vahidy. They did a good job by narrating brief back stories related to the songs. Also, on one occasion they asked the audience not to whistle while appreciating a performance. The audience complied with the directive.

AMLEK Pearl singing 'Meri hamjolian'.—Dawn

GRADUATING students take the oath at the convocation.—Dawn

Degrees awarded to graduating teachers at GECE's third convocation

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Government Elementary College of Education (GECE) Hussainabad hosted its third convocation ceremony on Saturday, celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2025.

The event honoured the dedication and perseverance of graduating teachers who are poised to make a significant impact in Pakistan's classrooms.

The ceremony commenced with a formal academic procession, followed by a recitation from the Quran and the national anthem.

Graduates were awarded degrees and special distinctions. In her valedictory address, Gul-e-Zehra inspired her fellow graduates to lead with purpose and passion in their teaching careers.

Speaking as the chief guest, Sindh High Court Chief Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput said: "As a representative of the legal fraternity, I will say very clearly that laws may guide a nation, but it is education that shapes it."

University of Karachi Vice Chancellor Khalid Iraqi also delivered a speech celebrating the resilience and innovation of educators.

Other prominent guests included Shehzad Roy, President of Zindagi Trust, Khalid Mahmood, Nazim Haji, Muhammad Ali Tabba among others.

Durbeen CEO Salma Alam emphasised the transformative role of educators in nation-building. "Teachers are the backbone of any nation, and all of you and all of us are not just educators; we are the architects of social change in Pakistan. As we walk this path, it is important to remember that our journey is not just about personal success but about paving the way for others and a commitment to something larger than oneself. This is the collective force that will set Pakistan on the path to prosperity," she said.

This year's convocation marked a special milestone for the GECE as the first batch of graduates are now officially licensed government teachers, having successfully obtained their teaching licences.

The class of 2023, 2024 and 2025 are already making a difference in the education sector as they are currently teaching at Zindagi Trust's government schools. These graduates have secured guaranteed jobs, ensuring a bright future for both them and their students. This is the third batch of GECE-trained teachers to be placed in schools through this innovative programme, reinforcing the institution's commitment to providing quality education and building a strong foundation for Pakistan's future educators.

While the convocation focused on the accomplishments of the Class of 2025, the GECE also reaffirmed its vision for the future. The institution is set to launch Pakistan's first Master's Programme for Teacher Education in collaboration with the University of Oxford. This groundbreaking programme, beginning in 2026, will provide advanced training for teacher-educators, further strengthening the foundation of teaching preparation in the country.

The ceremony concluded with a Teacher's Oath, led by Yasmin Motasim, which affirmed the graduates' commitment to fostering quality education. The GECE's Convocation 2025 was a celebration of achievement, a reflection of its mission to elevate public education, and a promise to continue empowering educators to drive meaningful change in Pakistan.

Two indicted for facilitating attack on Chinese nationals

Accused plead not guilty before ATC and opt to face charges

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday indicted two men in a case pertaining to facilitating terrorists in the Karachi airport suicide attack case.

Saeed Ali, a trader, and Bilal, an officer at a private bank, have been arrested for allegedly facilitating and arranging funds through a private bank in Hub Chowki, Balochistan, to purchase a vehicle which was used in the deadly bombing targeting the Chinese nationals near the airport.

The judge of ATC-XII, who conducted the trial at the judicial complex inside the Central Prison Karachi, read out the charges against the accused persons.

However, neither has pleaded guilty and opted to contest the accusations.

Therefore, the court has issued notices to the prosecution witnesses with a direction to appear before it on Jan 10 to record their testimonies.

The prosecution said that a suicide attack on a Chinese convoy was carried out near Karachi Airport in October 2024 that claimed the lives of two foreigners and one Pakistani national while 11 others sustained injuries.

It contended that during investigations, the alleged mastermind of the attack, Muhammad Javed alias Sameer, said to be associated with the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), had disclosed that the facilitation and financing of the attack were carried out by the BLA's Majeed Brigade.

The prosecution also maintained that a vehicle was purchased for Rs7.1 million from a showroom while Saeed Ali and Bilal, a business development officer posted at the private bank, were facilitators as the account used for the payment was registered under the name of Saeed Ali Traders and the bank officer facilitated the transfer of payment.

The vehicle was registered through the excise and taxation department and was later fitted with explosive materials and used in the bombing, it added.

A separate case was lodged by the Counter Terrorism Department against these accused and others under Sections 11-F (membership, support and meetings relating to a proscribed organisation) 11-N (punishment for fund-raising and using money or other property for the purposes of terrorism) and 21-I (aid an abetment) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

Accused Bilal had obtained bail from the Sindh High Court in April last year after the trial court had turned down his similar plea while after the ATC, the SHC had also dismissed the post-arrest bail application of co-accused Saeed Ali in August last year.

The main case about suicide bombing was also lodged at the CTD police station and alleged mastermind of the attack Javaid and his female aide, Gul Nisa, were facing the main proceedings before an anti-terrorism court.

The BLA commander Bashir Ahmed alias Bashir Zeb and Abdul Rehman alias Rehman Gul have also been declared as proclaimed offenders in the case while the suicide attacker was identified as Shah Fahad.

Coach runs over, kills five-year-old in Baldia

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A minor boy was killed in an accident in Baldia Town on Saturday.

The Ittehad Town police said that five-year-old Burhan Tariq was crushed to death by a fast-moving coach at a bus terminal in Sector-5.

He was taken to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi by relatives where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The driver responsible for the fatal accident managed to escape from the spot, leaving behind the vehicle that was impounded by the police.

Man dies in hit-and-run

Meanwhile, a young man was killed in a hit-and-run accident near Metro shopping centre in the SITE area on Saturday, according to rescue services.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The police said that the victim could not be identified till late in the night.

Meanwhile, police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a suspect for his alleged involvement in "immoral activities" while driving a car on University Road.

East SSP Zubair Nazir Shaikh confirmed the arrest of the suspect.

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LPR-10843	Beams, MS Plates & Checkered Plates (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specification)	

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Tenders will be opened at **11.00** am on tender due date in presence of the bidder's representatives who may wish to be present. KSEW reserves the right to accept or reject tender.

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